

Maryland Archeology Month 2015

Out of the Ordinary: Tavern Archeology in Maryland



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Discovering Archaeology Day

Saturday, April 18, 2015
10am - 5pm

Free Admission

Rain or Shine



Meet archaeologists from all over Maryland

- Enjoy hands-on activities for children and adults
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 - The Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory
 - Excavations at the 18th-century Smith's St. Leonard site
- Visit the Woodland Indian Village
- Explore on-site exhibits:
 - FAQ Archaeology
 - Farmers, Patriots & Traitors: Southern MD and the War of 1812

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Out of the Ordinary: Tavern Archeology in Maryland

Charles L. Hall, Maryland Historical Trust

The word ‘ordinary’ has many meanings. The third definition offered by the Oxford English Dictionary states that an Ordinary is “An inn, public house, tavern, etc., where meals are provided at a fixed price.” Who knew! Such establishments were commonplace (or, ordinary . . .) on the colonial landscape of Maryland. By the nineteenth century the term of choice had changed to Tavern.

This year the Maryland Archeology Month Committee partnered with Don Creveling of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission’s Natural and Historical Resources Division (NHRD) of Prince George’s County, and Silas Hurry of Historic St. Mary’s City, to focus Maryland Archeology Month on the archeology of tavern sites in Maryland. “Out of the Ordinary” is a double entendre (credit to Myron Beckenstein, editor of the Archeological Society of Maryland’s newsletter, *ASM Ink*) meant to illuminate the disconnect between the common modern impression of taverns as simply drinking establishments, and the truth of their much richer role in the past as places where every part of governance, commerce, and domesticity were conducted by every aspect of a diverse society.

While the Committee hopes that you will enjoy the 14 essays included in this booklet (see map below for locations of the 11 ordinaries or taverns featured in the essays), and proudly display the beautiful poster, our principal wish is that you join with others across the State to celebrate archeology and all that it does to enrich our knowledge and our lives. You can do this by attending or participating in one of the many events offered during the month and throughout the year (see page 36 and visit the Society’s website at www.marylandarcheology.org), or by sharing your enthusiasm for archeology with a friend or a stranger, a child or a parent, a teacher or a student. Anyone who isn’t currently a fan of Maryland archeology should be considered simply someone who isn’t a fan yet!

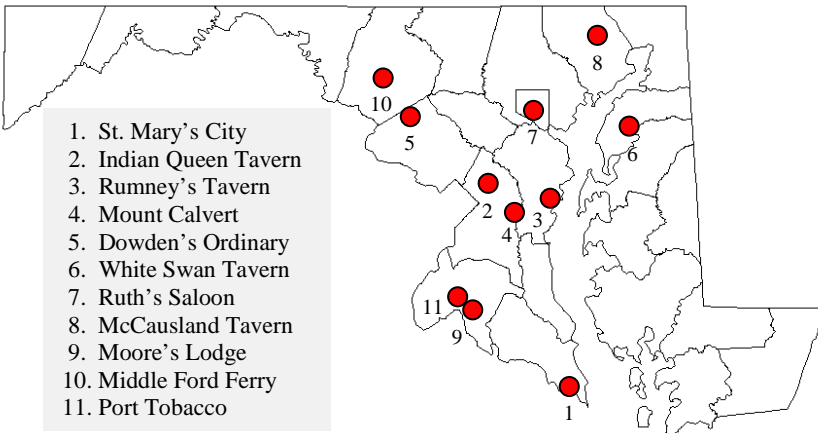


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Inn, Tavern or Ordinary?

Rod Cofield, Executive Director, Historic London Town & Gardens

“Upon all the new settlements the Spaniards make, the first thing they do is build a church, the first thing the Dutch do upon a new colony is to build them a fort, but the first thing ye English do, be it in the most remote part of ye world, or amongst the most barbarous Indians, is to set up a tavern or drinking house.” Captain Thomas Walduck in a letter to John Searle, his nephew in London, 1708.

Captain Walduck got it right. From the start, taverns were an integral part of life in the English colonies. At Jamestown, public houses operated from ships before most buildings were constructed. When Pennsylvania was founded, the first colonists ran taverns out of caves along the Delaware River while waiting for Philadelphia to be laid out. And in Maryland, from the colonial period to today, the local pub has deeply affected politics, domestic life, and social interactions.

The Political Sphere

During the colonial and early Federal period, chances were good that a government function regularly occurred in a tavern. In St. Mary’s City the legislature, governor’s council, and the courts met in various public houses during the first 30+ years of the colony’s existence. Legislators, jurors, sheriffs, and other government officials gathered at places such as the Calvert House (operated as an ordinary by William Smith) to eat, drink, and lodge. The government officials would then take over one or both of the tavern’s rooms to conduct governmental affairs. And if a trial was being held, the tavern sometimes acted as a jail with the prisoner being watched over by law enforcement (this scenario often led to many successful ‘jail’ breaks).

Even after buildings were constructed in the 1660s and 1670s in St. Mary’s City specifically for various branches of the government, taverns played an integral role.

Government officials still needed a place to stay when visiting the capital. Jurors and legislators gathered after government sessions to eat and socialize. And as the following quote shows, even the clerks slipped



T. Wiggins, *A Scene in the Kings Bench*; 1796.

out of the state house from time to time to get something to drink at Gellie's establishment:

"The Clerkes... are often found to frequent [Gellie's] by which means there is great occasion to suspect the Publick affairs of this Province are much impeded by [their drunkenness]."

Domestic & Commercial Spaces

Until the 20th century, the vast majority of taverns should be considered both a domestic and a commercial space. Unlike the specialized bars, hotels, and restaurants we experience today, families and entire households lived and worked in the same spaces where patrons and travelers lodged, ate, drank, gossiped, and socialized. This generally meant that most of the family assisted with the business of running a tavern. Slaves and servants could be running an errand for the family in the morning and then attending to the needs of a traveler in the evening. Hugh Finlay captured this scene with this journal entry from 1774:

"At such houses a parcel of ragged children and dirty servants are set down at table with every traveller."

Social Interactions

At no other place or establishment did the variety of people and social classes come together like they did at taverns. Slaves, convicts, indentures, wage earners, planters, mariners, merchants, doctors, government officials, and every other type of person interacted with each other at taverns. When the weekly local paper arrived, locals came to read the tavern's copy. Or if they could not read, they heard the news read aloud from someone who could. When the horse races, market fairs, or other public events occurred, taverns often catered to the attendees as they traveled from their home to these gatherings. When an estate auction occurred, they often occurred at a tavern. When elections were held, many times a tavern was a convenient polling place. In short, if a political or social event occurred, taverns were involved somehow.



Alexander Carse, *Revellers in an Inn*; early 19th-Century.

The Ordinaries of St. Mary's City

Silas Hurry, Historic St. Mary's City

In the 17th century, an "ordinary" was a combination hotel, restaurant, and tavern, which served as a center for social, economic, and political activity. In St. Mary's City, nearly every building which stood for more than ten years served as an ordinary at some point with the exception of the brick statehouse and the Catholic chapel. Ordinaries were strictly regulated by law with the Assembly setting prices for food, lodging, and drink. The ordinaries ranged in quality from Garrett Van Sweringen's fine establishment to the plainer ordinaries such as William Smith's in the town's center. Since the business of St. Mary's City was government, ordinaries were needed to provide housing and hospitality to travelers coming to town for government and personal business.

Smith's Ordinary: William Smith arrived in the colony early in the 1660s and went to work as a builder, an innkeeper, and a merchant. In 1666, when development of the capital was underway, he secured a 31-year lease from the colonial government with provisions that he build and operate an ordinary. Smith didn't live to see his ordinary populated, though. He died before construction was complete. Eventually, the property transferred to Garrett Van Sweringen, a Dutchman who had moved from Delaware after it was captured by the English in 1664. Van Sweringen then decided to lease out the ordinary to John Deery and keep a "private lodging house" and to build a bake and brew house. Deery died in 1676 or early 1677 and the ordinary burned to the ground shortly after. This building has been reconstructed on its original site.



Reconstruction of Smith's Ordinary in St. Mary's City based on archaeological excavations.

The Calvert House: The Calvert House was built by Leonard Calvert in the early 17th century. The colonial government acquired the building in 1662 to use as the colony's first state house. The Calvert House also served as the largest public inn in Maryland from 1661 until about 1700. It was found that the functions of statehouse and ordinary were best separated. When the brick statehouse was built in 1678, the Calvert House continued to be operated as an ordinary.

Garrett Van Sweringen's Council Chamber Inn: In the 1660s, the colony's government constructed an unheated building to store the paper records of the province. Known as the Council Chamber, this building was later bought

by Dutchman Garrett Van Sweringen who added fireplaces and converted it into the most elegant private lodging house in the colony. As a private lodging house, Van Sweringen was not restricted by the laws regulating prices or requirements to “take all comers”. He also built a brewery and by special act of the Assembly was allowed a special price for his “boyled cider.” Van Sweringen also operated the first coffee house in the English colonies in an outbuilding located on the same property. The site is interpreted with reconstructions, exhibit panels, and audio components at Historic St. Mary’s City.

St. John’s: St. John’s was built in 1638 by John Lewger, the first secretary of the colony. The house was subsequently owned by Simon Overzee, a merchant of Dutch extraction, and later by Charles Calvert, Governor and third Lord Baltimore. The building was the site of early meetings of the Assembly, was where Mathias de Sousa became the first man of African descent to vote in an American legislative body, and where Margaret Brent asked for “vote” and “voyce.” The building served as an ordinary later in the 17th century operated by a series of keepers including two Frenchmen, Mark Cordea and Charles Delaroche and an Englishman named Henry Exxon. Exxon did extensive repairs documented in a lease including replacing the chimney and installing a tile roof. The archaeological remains are now displayed within a museum with artifact galleries and exhibits.



Original remains of St. John’s which served as an ordinary in the later 17th century displayed within the St. John’s Site Museum.

Gellie’s Ordinary: Robert Gellie operated an ordinary near the brick statehouse of 1676. Apparently, the establishment had a tendency to distract clerks of the court, attorneys, and juries from their duties. In 1686, the Maryland Council suppressed the ordinary having “found to frequent the said House by which means there is great occasion to suspect the Publick affairs of this Province are much impeded by reason of the said Ordinary.” The archaeological remains of this ordinary were discovered near Trinity Church (built from bricks from the 1676 statehouse) during monitoring of construction activities. Numerous tobacco pipes, ceramics, and glassware were discovered.

There were many other ordinaries operated in the capital throughout the 17th century. John Baker, Daniel Clocker, John Garnish, Richard Moy, Miles Boroughs and many others operated ordinaries in St. Mary’s City. With the removal of the capital to Annapolis in 1695, their reason for existence ended. Some innkeepers followed the government to Annapolis but most became planters or moved north and west with the progressing settlement.

The Indian Queen Tavern, Bladensburg

Julie M. Schablitsky, Maryland State Highway Administration

Around 1763, a tavern was built on the west side of what would become Maryland Route 1 in Bladensburg by Swiss-German immigrants, Jacob Wirt and his wife, Henrietta. The Wirts raised three sons and three daughters in this tavern. In 1774, Jacob died and left this property, including the brick store (George Washington House), tavern, stable, and counting house, to his heirs, who rented it out. The 1798 tax record described the ordinary as a two story, framed dwelling house measuring 46 ft by 28 ft. The property, now occupied by Richard Ross, also supported a 12 ft by 16 ft framed kitchen, a 26 ft by 20 ft framed stable, and a 26 ft by 9 ft shed.



Tavern patrons enjoyed expensive cuts of beef, oysters, and lamb on beautifully decorated tin-glazed earthenwares, creamwares, and white salt-glazed stoneware.

As part of the commemoration of the bicentennial of the War of 1812, Maryland State Highway Administration and University of Maryland archaeologists undertook research at the site of the Indian Queen Tavern just north of the extant colonial brick building called the George Washington House. Archaeologists recovered hundreds of artifacts related to the tavern as well as the stone foundation of what may be the kitchen. The discovery of glass stemmed goblets, nicely decorated tea wares, and expensive cuts of meat suggest the Indian Queen Tavern catered to upscale clientele. The assemblage of faunal remains showed the occupants and guests consumed lamb, cuts of beef (steaks, rib roast, top and bottom round), and pork (tenderloin, pork chops, and ham).

Perhaps the most significant mention of the tavern came in a letter dated March 26, 1797 from George Washington to Elizabeth Willing Powell. In the correspondence he stated that although Spurrier's Tavern in Jessup was popular with travelers, "the lodging is bad - the eating tolerable ... better for lodging than eating. At Bladensburg nine miles beyond a good house is kept by one Ross (sign of the Indian Queen)."



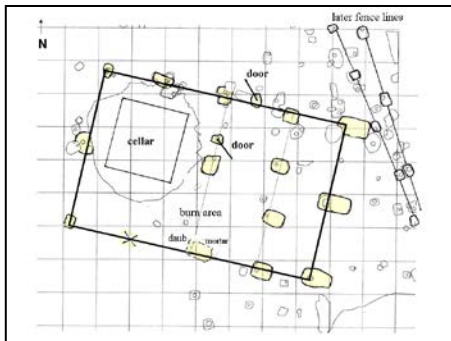
This tavern-related cask tap indicated that casks of wines and ales were kept in the detached kitchen. These beverages were served in stemmed glasses and fine-grained stoneware from England.

Today the Indian Queen Tavern site is marked with an interpretive panel and the archaeology of Bladensburg is shared on a web site: www.bladensburgarchaeology.org.

The Rumney/West Tavern

Al Luckenbach, Lost Towns Project

The Rumney/West Tavern was a 36x24' earthfast structure located in the colonial seaport of London Town, in Anne Arundel County. Overlooking a ferry crossing on the South River, the structure was first discovered in 1995 during volunteer excavations conducted by County's Lost Towns Project. Based on documentary evidence, and the discovery of a 1704 window lead, it is believed to have been built soon after that date by Edward Rumney, and remained standing until the third quarter of the 18th century.



Rumney's Archaeological Floorplan.

Archaeological excavations discovered a 10x10' earthen cellar under one corner of the building. This five foot deep feature proved to be filled with trash derived from the serving end of the tavern operation. The abundant and varied food remains, and large numbers of glass and ceramic vessels, clearly indicate that the tavern was used by an upscale clientele. Presumably it served as a meeting place for planters and ship captains. Based on a study of delftware motifs, the cellar appears to have shifted from a storage function to a trash disposal function soon after Stephen West acquired the building in 1724.

Particularly notable among the artifacts was the assemblage of largely reconstructable delftware ceramics from the Vauxhall kilns. More important, however, was the presence of at least ten white salt-glazed stoneware vessels. The cellar fill represents one of the earliest firmly dated contexts for this ceramic type.

The discovery of the cellar proved to be instrumental in securing the political support necessary for the eventual development of the 23 acre Historic London Town Park into a tourism and educational attraction. Many of the visually impressive archaeological finds are now on display at the park's museum and visitor's center.



Examples of Delftware from cellar.

In addition to the extant 1760 William Brown House, and two structures reconstructed on their footprints from archaeological evidence, plans are being developed to rebuild the Rumney/West Tavern so that it once again draws a crowd in London Town.

Dowden's Ordinary

*Heather Bouslog, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
Montgomery Parks Department*

Built by Michael Dowden in 1753, Dowden's Ordinary was a stop for travelers on their way to Frederick, Maryland. Ordinaries also played a central role in the lives of local residents where men could gather to discuss politics, conduct business, and gamble. Dowden's even was host to the first elephant seen in North America!



Dowden's Ordinary ca. 1900 (Courtesy of Montgomery County Historical Society).

Among those who stopped at Dowden's Ordinary were British soldiers during the French and Indian War. On April 15, 1755 a seaman wrote in his diary:

"Marched at 5 on our way to one Dowden's a Publichouse 15 miles from Owen's and encamped upon very bad ground on the side of a hill. We got our tents pitched by, when the wind shifted from the South to the North—from a sultry hot day it became excessively cold, and rained with thunder and lightning till about 5 in the morning, when in 10 minutes it changed to snow, which in 2 hours covered the ground a foot and a half" (Wahl 1999, Braddock Road Chronicles, pg 135).

British General Edward Braddock followed the soldiers' route, passed Dowden's Ordinary, and perhaps had refreshments there on the way to Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh). Braddock was England's weapon to rid the Ohio Valley of the French but the battle ended in disaster—Braddock was mortally wounded and 1,000 troops were lost. Although the British and Americans shared victory in the war, on-going tensions between them set the stage for the American Revolution.



Dark olive green wine bottle fragments recovered from excavations at Dowden's Ordinary give us a glimpse into tavern life.

Archaeology at Dowden's has revealed traces of early tavern life. Fragments of bowls, mugs, bottles and jugs are evidence of the meals that travelers and locals enjoyed. Olive green bottle glass suggests that guests drank both local and foreign wines which complemented the Chesapeake Bay oysters recovered from the site. Today the site is left undeveloped on the grounds of Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County Dowden's

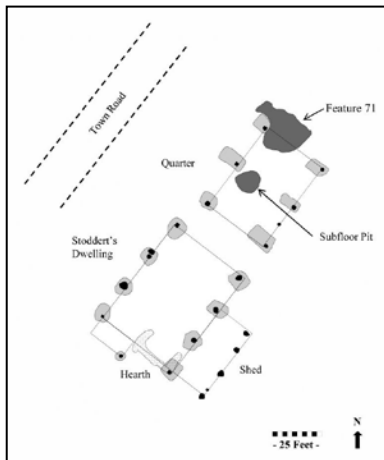
Ordinary Special Park. The park offers interpretive signage, a ghost structure of the tavern, paths, cannon, and a playground.

Archaeology at Charles Town

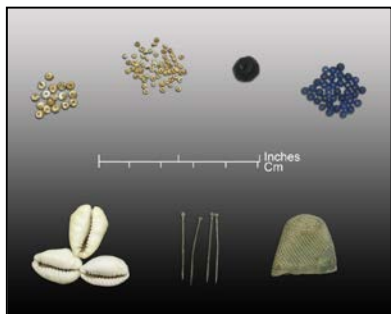
*Emily Swain, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission,
Prince George's County, Archaeology Program*

Colonists did not have access to garbage service like we do today. The trash of everyday life was not hauled away, but instead dumped outside windows and doors and used to fill holes dug for other purposes, like mining clay for stick-and-mud chimneys. Artifacts found in these trash deposits can tell archaeologists a lot about what life was like at specific sites like ordinaries and taverns.

Trash pits associated with taverns, ordinaries, and dwellings often contain objects related to eating and drinking, as well as other domestic activities like sewing, smoking, and spiritual and cultural practices. One trash pit (Feature 71) was excavated by archaeologists at the Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park in Prince George's County, Maryland, the site of Charles Town, the county seat from 1696 to 1721 and a point of convergence between European, Native American, and African American cultures during the colonial period. Artifacts found in this pit included plates, jugs, glass bottles, tobacco pipes, nails, and food remains including animal bones, egg shells, and oyster shells.



Overview of Site.



Beads, Cowrie Shells, Straight Pins, and Thimble from Fea. 71.

Some of the most interesting artifacts found were small objects (called small finds). Small find objects like straight pins, cowrie shells, and beads were found in almost all excavated layers of the feature. Amazingly, over 900 beads were recovered from Feature 71!

So whose trash is this? James Stoddert, a Scottish merchant and known owner of enslaved Africans, was living at Charles Town in the early 1700s, possibly in one of the structures associated with Feature 71. Stoddert was trained as a tailor and frequently traded items such as beads, copper ornaments, and hawk's bells with local Native Americans. Cowrie shells, beads, and pierced objects are often associated with African American spiritual traditions. Could the presence of all these objects be evidence of Stoddert's occupation of the site and his interaction with both Native Americans and enslaved African Americans? It is one explanation, but more research is necessary before we can say for sure.

The White Swan Tavern (18KE232), Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland
*Jay Custer, Center for Archaeological Research, Department of Anthropology,
 University of Delaware*

The White Swan Tavern, located in downtown Chestertown, was the focus of archaeological excavations funded by the owners, the Horace Havemeyer Jr. family, as part of the structure's restoration in 1978. The collection was later transferred to the University of Delaware Center for Archaeological Research and a summary report published in 1995 in *Maryland Archeology*. The tavern is currently operated as a bed-and-breakfast and includes a large display of some of the more spectacular artifacts that were recovered. The earliest documentary evidence of the building's use as a tavern dates to 1787 although there is a deed reference to a structure on the property in 1733. The building was converted to a store in 1854. During the time period of its use as a tavern Chestertown was a major shipping port with at least three taverns in operation.



Front View of the White Swan Tavern.

Archaeological excavations were undertaken in the back yard, under the building and in an adjacent well, and in the area of a detached kitchen. A wide range of domestic artifacts and faunal remains from the 18th and 19th century were found in disturbed contexts under the house and in the yard. Numerous medicine bottle fragments were found under the house and are the source of



Artifact Display (North Devon charger with "White Swan" visible in upper left corner).

local lore pertaining to various nefarious tavern activities. However, the bottles were most likely the components of a doctor's kit of bottles commonly found on naval vessels and in military contexts. Undisturbed 18th century contexts within the well produced a wide array of glass stemware fragments, ceramics including Chinese export porcelain, and a coconut hull fragment which testify to

the cosmopolitan nature of Chestertown's 18th century economy. Undisturbed contexts in the kitchen area produced a similar range of artifacts and ecofacts as well as a large complete North Devon gravel-tempered sgraffito charger marked with a date of 1730 and a depiction of a large bird, which has been anecdotally identified as a swan and is the source of the tavern's current name.

The Ruth Saloon (1906-1912)

*Patricia Samford, Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab,
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum*

If you go to a Baltimore Orioles game this summer at Camden Yards, look out between second base and center field. Then imagine a very young Babe Ruth—not hitting a baseball, but eating a meal in his father’s saloon. Between



Babe Ruth (center) and his father George Herman Ruth Sr. (right) in the family saloon on Lombard and Eutaw Streets, circa 1917.

1906 and 1912, the Ruth family ran a saloon at 406 West Conway Street, in a building that had been demolished to make way for industrial development.

George Herman (Babe) Ruth, Jr. was born in Baltimore’s Pigtown neighborhood in 1895 to Katherine and George Herman Ruth, Sr. By the time Ruth was of school age, his parents had divorced and his father ran a saloon with upstairs living quarters for Babe and his sister. In addition to being a drinking establishment, the saloon also served meals, with the lunch clientele being primarily industrial workers. The site of the Ruth Saloon (18BC79) was excavated in 1990 by Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. as part of the archaeological data recovery conducted prior to the construction of Camden Yards. Artifacts recovered from the excavations included bottles that once held alcoholic beverages, animal bone from meals prepared at the saloon, broken dishes and dice that may have been used by saloon patrons. Although perhaps the best known, the West Conway Street saloon was the second of three saloons run by George Herman Ruth Sr. He ran into trouble with the law in 1901 at his West Camden Street tavern for allowing minors to play billiards.



Two early twentieth-century liquor bottles from the Ruth Saloon excavations.

In my mind it is fitting that the site of the former home of one of baseball’s greatest players and one of the first players inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame would one day become the location of a Major League Baseball park.

SHA Archaeology at the McCausland Tavern, 18HA234

Richard G. Ervin, Maryland State Highway Administration

The McCausland Tavern site is a nineteenth and twentieth century domestic occupation associated with a no-longer extant tavern in Dublin, Harford County, Maryland. The Maryland State Highway Administration investigated the site as a result of a project that only marginally impacted it; the remainder of the site was fenced and avoided. The artifacts recovered reflect the general use of the site, first as a tavern, later as a hotel, and finally as a boarding house. An organic midden and intact subsurface features were recorded, and the assemblage provided interesting glimpses into the function of taverns in the early Federal period, as well as how economic opportunities and social choices influenced the lives of American women of the times.

A pattern analysis of the assemblage suggested that it may be possible to document functional variability among taverns, and indicated that the McCausland Tavern acted primarily as a residence, with a tavern oriented more towards the accommodation of polite guests, and less towards socializing or drinking.

McCausland most closely resembles the assemblage of Riseing Son tavern, another site that served as both dwelling and tavern. The Riseing Son pattern reflected residential activities to a surprising extent, and supports the McCausland investigation conclusion that pattern analysis can provide clues to the subtly different roles played by individual taverns.

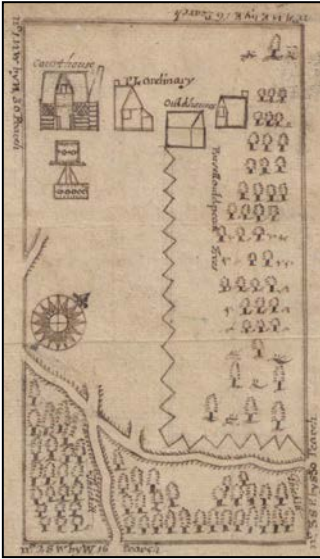
McCausland's widow Elizabeth and her unmarried daughters were assisted by her son Thomas Jefferson, who operated the family farm. Agricultural produce and orchards provided a substantial portion of the subsistence needs of both the family and Tavern patrons. It is interesting that five of George and Elizabeth's six daughters chose to remain unmarried. While on one level this reflects individual choice, it also represents a socioeconomic choice dependent on the economic viability of the tavern enterprise. The historic record is silent about the motivations behind his daughter's decisions, but the opinions of contemporary female authors are suggestive. Sprigg (1984: *Domestick Beings*, page 17) recounts "that it was better to be married than single, but better to be single than unhappily wed." Economic opportunity appears to have influenced the social choices made by the women in McCausland's family.



Personal Group artifacts from 18HA234, including (Top Row) heart-shaped locket, decorative pin, and a horn hair comb. Second Row, mirror fragment, bone toothbrush. Third Row, slate pencils, octagonal ferry and rail token of the EVB in Cuba. Bottom: pocketknife.

The Ordinary at Moore's Lodge

Julia A. King and Scott M. Strickland, St. Mary's College of Maryland



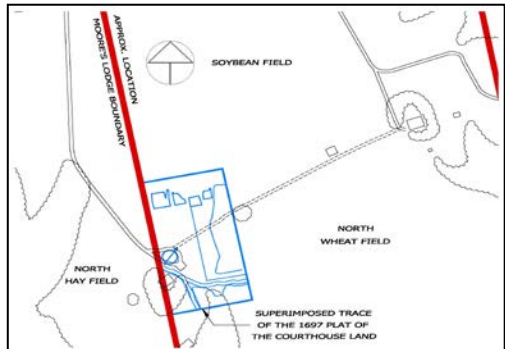
1697 Plat of the Court House at Moore's Lodge by Joseph Manning (courtesy of the Maryland State Archives).

From 1674 until 1727, the Charles County Courthouse was located at Moore's Lodge, a plantation owned by Thomas Hussey. The Court House at Moore's Lodge was centrally located away from navigable water along Zekiah Run. The colony purchased one acre from Hussey on which to site the court house itself.

Hussey and, later, Philip Lynes, kept an ordinary at Moore's Lodge when the court was in session. At first, Hussey kept the ordinary in his house. But Hussey resented the small rates allowed him and the county justices griped about Hussey's meager provisions. In 1687, the concession went to Philip Lynes, who built a separate structure for the ordinary. In 1691, the concession went back to Hussey. Hussey complained that Lynes erected the new structure on Hussey's land and not on the courthouse lot.

These squabbles resulted in the preparation of a detailed plat depicting all of the structures on the court house lot, including the ordinary ("PL" stands for Philip Lynes). This famous plat appears in many books on early Maryland history but surprisingly, no one knew the location of the actual court house lot.

That changed in 2008 when four Charles County businessmen, including Michael J. Sullivan, Jim Lorenzi, David Posey, and Wayne Wilkerson, funded the search for the courthouse. Working with registered Maryland land surveyor Kevin Norris, archaeologists from St. Mary's College of Maryland identified the courthouse lot in an agricultural field south of La Plata. Concentrations of artifacts revealed exactly where the court house, ordinary, and dwelling structures were located, and vestiges of the old road to the court house survive in the landscape as a farm road.



This map shows the court house plat placed in the real world; note the road shown on the 1697 plat survives as a farm road in the present-day landscape.

A Note on Some Common Drinks in Colonial Maryland

Troy J. Nowak, *Maryland Historical Trust*

Cider, ale, beer, and other moderately alcoholic beverages were commonly served in Maryland homes and taverns during the 17th and 18th centuries. Preparation of these drinks took place in dedicated brew houses on plantations and in the kitchens of ordinaries, farmhouses, and village homes. They were staples in colonial America which served as substitutes for water, which was considered an unsanitary drink, and for relaxation and enjoyment depending on style and potency.

Cider was available throughout Maryland because a variety of fruits were locally grown and easily obtained. Ale, originally referring to a beverage made from malt and a variety of herbs, and beer, a similar beverage made from malt and hops, were not as abundant as cider and other beverages. Malt and hops were not locally grown in quantity and were not easily acquired until the 18th century. Maryland colonists often substituted corn, molasses, and fruits such as pumpkin for malt to brew beverages similar to traditional ale and beer.

Drink recipes were available in published cookbooks and colonists recorded procedures for brewing their favorite beverages. During archeological study of Curles Plantation in Henrico County, Virginia Dr. Dan Mouer discovered a recipe for “Good Ale” using malt and hops dating from the 18th or early 19th century. He recreated the drink using modern ingredients resulting in a deep brown ale with little hop flavor or aroma and an alcohol content of nearly 7%.¹

The alcohol content of “Good Ale” is similar to what would have been considered a Table or Strong Ale in colonial Maryland. Ales and beers commonly were classified as Small or Strong largely based on their alcohol content with Small varieties often made from successive use of the mash. Eighteenth century ads in the *Maryland Gazette* attest to the sale of Strong and Small Beers and Ales as well as Table Beer, which generally was of middling alcohol content, and Porter, a popular style of beer first produced in London which was dark, relatively strong, and well-hopped. These products were available from merchants who imported ale and beer, plantations with large brew houses and Maryland’s first commercial brew houses which were established during the 18th century.

JOHN JEUDY, BREWER,
HEREBY gives Notice to the Public, That he has now opened his BREWERY in this City, and sells Strong Beer at 3s. per Barrel, good Table Beer for 1s. Ditto, and Small Beer at 10s. And out of the House, Strong Beer by the single Gallon 1/6, or 6d. a Quart. Good Grain for feeding Milch Cows, Horses and Swine, for 9d. per Bushel; Strong Beer Yett for 18d. per Quart.

Maryland Gazette March 1, 1764

¹Mouer, Dan. 2003. Colonial ale. *How to Brew*. Jan/Feb 2003. Available online - <http://byo.com/stories/issue/item/479-colonial-ale>.

The Middle Ford Ferry and Tavern on the Monocacy River*Joy Beasley, National Park Service*

In 2003, National Park Service archeologists discovered the mid-eighteenth century Middle Ford Ferry Tavern, located just south of Frederick, Maryland on the banks of the Monocacy River.



NPS archeologists excavation at the Middle Ford Ferry Tavern site.

Archeological and historic research at Middle Ford Ferry provide insight into the earliest settlement and occupation of central Maryland, where vital trade and transportation routes transformed Frederick County into a gateway to the west, facilitated the growth of population and industry, and spurred the development of roads, bridges, and thoroughfares that remain in use today.

The tavern was associated with the Middle Ford Ferry, which was established around 1748 to carry travelers on the Georgetown Road over the Monocacy River and operated until about 1830, when construction of a bridge rendered the ferry obsolete. The presence of a tavern at the ferry was necessary as long-distance travel in the eighteenth century was hazardous and colonial roads were often poorly marked and maintained. In Maryland, tavern keepers were expected to provide “Sufficient accomodacon,” including “three spare beds, with covering, and sufficient stabling and provender for six horses at least.”

Over time, traces of both the old road and the tavern vanished into the landscape, until archeological research pinpointed the remnants of the 15-by-20-foot tavern structure, as well as a midden feature to its east. It was likely part of a complex which may have included a stable or paddock.



Recovered ceramics include slip-decorated redware, white salt-glazed stoneware, and hand-painted pearlware.

Over 10,000 artifacts were recovered, including architectural materials; fragments of glassware and ceramics; food remains; and a variety of personal items. Datable artifacts indicate the site was occupied from at least the 1740s until about 1830, confirming primary historic documentation.

The Middle Ford Ferry Tavern is one of the many historic resources preserved at Monocacy National Battlefield. The Middle Ford Ferry Loop Trail is a 0.5 mile trail along the Monocacy River that provides visitors with a glimpse into the eighteenth-century landscape. For more information, call 301-662-3515 or visit www.nps.gov/mono.

The Sign of the Ship

Jim Gibb, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center

A ship painted on a weathered wooden sign, seemingly riding the waves as the sign swings in the breeze, evokes memories of the Admiral Benbow Inn of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. No doubt there were many inns, or ordinaries, in ports throughout the world of the mid-18th century that offered bed and board to sailors and other rough-looking itinerants. Several served Port Tobacco—the county seat of Charles County (1727-1896) and a principal trading center on the Chesapeake Bay—but it would be inaccurate to characterize all of those establishments as havens for men and women on the periphery of respectable society. Modern scholarship suggests that competing ordinaries often catered to different clienteles, and even the most aristocratic of Chesapeake society—George Washington, John Hanson, Gustavus Brown, to name a few—repaired to these establishments during their travels and to meet with business contacts. The archaeological challenge is to deduce the nature of an ordinary's clientele from the remains of ordinary furnishings recovered from the site.



Unit 74, Stratum 2, tin-glazed earthenware.

The Port Tobacco Archaeological Project team has sought several of the inns and hotels that operated in town, including Janet Kinsman's Sign of the Ship. While she operated the tavern for several years after her husband John's death in 1760, the lot on which it stood probably served as a tavern stand since initial lotting of the new town in 1729. Ownership began with John Speake and likely descended to Janet Kinsman through family connections and inheritance.

Archaeological evidence unearthed by April Beisaw (now of Vassar College) suggests that the tavern was demolished or extensively rebuilt in the early 19th century to accommodate the Indian King Hotel, which operated at least from the 1840s until its demolition in the late 1870s. With the help of her students from Heidelberg University and members of the Charles County Archaeological Society, April recovered fragments of 28 ceramic vessels from the demolition layer. These include 15 tin-glazed earthenwares and three Chinese porcelains, all of which likely were bowls for drinking punch, a common social drink of the wealthier members of Chesapeake society and comprised of rum and citrus fruits imported from the Caribbean. The Sign of the Ship appears to have catered to merchants, ship's officers, and plantation owners.



Tin-glazed earthenware punch bowl (left), Chinese porcelain cup (right top), white salt-glazed stoneware plate (right middle), tin-glazed earthenware punch bowl (right bottom).

The Cost of Hospitality

Silas Hurry, Historic St. Mary's City

While we may think that the traditional laissez-faire economic policies always ruled in the past, government actually strictly controlled prices. This was especially true concerning the cost of beverages, food, and accommodations since the government paid for the hospitality services of the elected officials who came from the diverse plantations to participate in the assembly, council, and courts.

An Act Limiting ordinary Keepers.

Whereas divers ordinary Keepers within this Province doe frequently Exact & Charge Excessive Rates for their drink victuals & other necessary accomodacons of Persons Resorting thither which may pove to the great Inconvenienses of the Inhabitants of this Province if noe Provision be made for the Regulacon thereof Bee it therefore Enacted by the Right honoble the Lord Proprietary by & wth the advice & Consent of the vpper & Lower house of this prsent Generall Assembly that from & after the Publicacon hereof no Ordinary Keeper Inholder or other pson Keeping a victualling howse or howse of Entertainmt wthin this Province shall for the future Sell & be allowed for **Rumm** above fforty pounds of Tobacco p gallon for **ffrench Brandy** one hundred pounds of Tobacco p gallon **English Spirits** Twenty five pounds of Tobacco p quart Bottle **dutch drams** fforty pounds of Tobacco p gallon for **Perry Quince & Syder** Twenty pounds of Tobacco p gallon **Muscavado Sugar** Eight pounds of Tobacco p pound **Refined white sugar** Sixteene pounds of Tobacco p pound **Lime juice** Twenty pounds of Tobacco p quart **Vinegar** Twenty pounds of Tobacco p gallon **ffrench wine** fforty pounds of Tobacco p gallon **Canaries & Maligoe** one hundred pounds of Tobacco p gallon all sorts of **Maderae ffiall Porta Port & other Portugall** wines Sixty pounds of Tobacco p gallon **Clarett** forty pounds of Tobacco p gallon **strong beer and ale** either made within this Province or brought from fforreigne p Twenty pounds of Tobacco p gallon for **dyett** tenn pounds of Tobacco p meale for good **Lodging** to Every pson accomodated wth a **Bedd** fflower pounds of tobacco p night & the like Rates Every ordinary keeper is hereby Enjoyned to Observe for a greater or Lesser Quantity of the aforesaid Rates of drink & other AccomodacOns & shall not directly or indirectly Take demand Exact or be allowed more then the Limitacon before specified And be it also ffor further Enacted by the Authority Aforesaid

Archeology Volunteer Programs

Following are examples of programs in Maryland that offer opportunities to get involved in archeology. For more information about these and other similar programs visit www.marylandarcheology.org.

Archaeology in Annapolis

Department of Anthropology, University of Maryland College Park

Archaeology in Annapolis is a research project that has explored the heritage of Maryland's capital since 1981. Opportunities to participate are available throughout the year, and fieldwork will be conducted from June 1 to July 10 during a field school offered by the Department. The field school is offered as a class for undergraduate or graduate credit, or a workshop for non-students. For more information, contact Stefan Woehlke (swoehlke@umd.edu), Tracy Jenkins (thjenk@umd.edu), Patricia Markert (pmarkert@umd.edu), or call (301) 405-1429.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation

Experience Prince George's County's history first-hand through volunteering with the Archaeology Program. Individuals, 14 years and up, can learn how archaeologists investigate the past and assist them with outdoor excavations and lab work. Volunteer registration is required through www.pg parks.com. For more information call the Archaeology Program office at 301- 627-1286 or email Kristin Montaperto at Kristin.Montaperto@pgparks.com.

Archaeology Program
Natural and Historical Resources Division
8204 McClure Road
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Anne Arundel County's Archaeology Program

Anne Arundel County's Cultural Resources Division works with local non-profits such as the Lost Towns Project, archaeologists, students, and volunteers in archeological research and public education programs. We seek to raise awareness and appreciation of our County's rich heritage, and to instill stewardship towards historic sites. We welcome the public to join us in excavations and in the laboratory; no experience required! We excavate much of year as weather allows. Our lab is open Monday –Thursday 9-3. To volunteer, apply for an internship, or learn more, contact Jasmine Gollup at 410-222-1318 or pzgoll33@aacounty.org.

Anne Arundel County's Archaeology Laboratory
839 Londontown Road
Edgewater, Maryland 21037
By appointment

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum: Public Archaeology Program

Smith's St. Leonard Site; May 6 - June 28, 2015

Join Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum archeologists this summer in the excavation of various early 18th century buildings at the Smith's St. Leonard Site. The program will run Tuesday through Saturday, May 5 through June 27. Tuesdays and Thursdays are "Lab Days," while Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays will be "Field Days," weather permitting. To volunteer, contact Ed Chaney at (410) 586-8554 or by email to ed.chaney@maryland.gov.

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum
10515 Mackall Road
St. Leonard, Maryland 20685
Ph: 410.586.8501 Fax: 410.586.8503 www.jeffpat.org

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Montgomery Parks Department, Park Planning and Stewardship

Join the Montgomery Parks' archaeology program in uncovering Montgomery County's past through the investigation and analysis of prehistoric Indian camps, African American homesteads and Euro American farmsteads. There are opportunities for fieldwork and labwork. Volunteers are welcome on Mondays and Wednesdays. Contact Heather Bouslog 301.563.7530, or Heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org, or visit www.ParksArchaeology.org

Archaeology Program
Needwood Mansion
6700 Needwood Road
Derwood, Maryland 20855

Historic St. Mary's City: A Museum of History and Archaeology

Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) is the site of the fourth permanent English settlement in North America, Maryland's first capital, and the birthplace of religious toleration in America. The archaeology department at HSMC, with St. Mary's College of Maryland, offers an annual Field School, which will take place from May 26 through August 1 in 2015. While in the field, staff and students offer tours of the excavations. At Tidewater Archaeology Weekend (July 25 – 26), the public can discover what it's like to be an archeologist and take a special tour of the archeological laboratory. The St. John's Site Museum at HSMC provides insights into ways researchers reconstruct the past using historical and archaeological evidence. Contact HSMC 240-895-4990, 800-SMC-1634, or Info@HSMCdigshistory.org for more information. For a list of events visit www.hsmcdigshistory.org/events.html.

Historic St. Mary's City
Museum of History and Archaeology
P.O. Box 39
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

Historic St. Mary's City**Public Archaeology Laboratory Volunteer Opportunities**

Historic St. Mary's City offers an opportunity to volunteer in the lab with one of the premier 17th century archaeological collections in the country. For-credit internships and experiential volunteer positions are available. Contact Silas Hurry at silash@digshistory.org

Historic St. Mary's City
Museum of History and Archaeology
P.O. Box 39
St. Mary's City, MD 20686

Maryland Historical Trust**Archeology Programs**

The Maryland Historical Trust is committed to involving the public in archeology. The Maryland Maritime Archeology Program provides opportunities for volunteers in field activities on a seasonal basis. Participants need not be divers. Terrestrial archeological programs include an annual Field Session co-hosted with the Archeological Society of Maryland. This eleven-day field investigation combines education with research, and provides unparalleled professional-avocational interaction. Additional field projects occur throughout the year. An Open Lab is held on most Tuesdays during the year teaching proper archeological lab techniques. Presentations, displays, publications, and internships are also offered. To learn more contact State Terrestrial Archeologist Charlie Hall at charles.hall@maryland.gov, or State Underwater Archeologist Susan Langley at susan.langley@maryland.gov.

Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
<http://mht.maryland.gov/>

Certificate and Training Program for Archeological Technicians

The Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. (ASM), the Maryland Historical Trust, and the Council for Maryland Archeology offer a Certificate and Training Program for Archeological Technicians (CAT Program), providing an opportunity to be recognized for formal and extended training in archeology without participation in a degree program. Certificate candidates must be members of the ASM, and work under the supervision of a mentor. A series of required readings and workshops is coupled with practical experience in archeological research. For information about the CAT Program, and application forms, visit the ASM web site at www.marylandarcheology.org.

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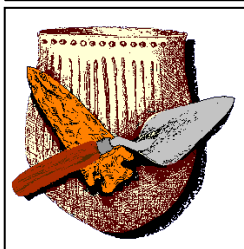
240-896-4990 www.stmaryscity.org 800-SMC-1634

Info@HSMCDigshistory.org

The **Council for Maryland Archeology** represents professional archeologists with an interest in the archeology of Maryland. Established in 1976, The Council's mission is to:

- Foster public awareness and concern for the preservation and management of archeological resources;
- Contribute to the professional management of archeological resources;
- Encourage scholarly research and serve as a forum for the exchange of information;
- Establish ethical and research standards for the conduct of archeology.

The Council holds symposia and speakers events that are open to the public. Follow the Council on Facebook for notification of upcoming events or on the web at <http://cfma-md.org>.



The **Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc. (ASM)** is a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to the scientific study of the human past in the State of Maryland. The Society consists of professional, academic, and avocational archeologists. In addition to the state-wide organization, the Society consists of eight chapters representing most geographic regions in the State of Maryland; each with its own local meetings

and activities. ASM sponsors publication, research, and site surveys throughout the State as well as the annual Workshop in Maryland Archeology (with the Maryland Historical Trust) and the annual Spring Symposium, both of which are public educational events. Each spring and autumn, ASM sponsors a field school/excavation which is open to public participation where members and the interested public can participate in an excavation under the direction of professional archeologists. Visit us at www.marylandarcheology.org.



The **Maryland State Highway Administration's** goal is not only to fulfill our legal responsibilities by promoting environmentally sensitive transportation planning, but also champion historic preservation through the stewardship of Maryland's cultural resources. Our cultural resources team evaluates proposed highway construction impacts on buildings, historic districts, roadway structures and archeological sites while managing community based programs in public archeology, historic bridges, and Native American consultation. For information, contact Dr. Julie M. Schablitsky, Chief Archeologist/Assistant Division Chief, Cultural Resources Section at jschablitsky@sha.state.md.us.

The **Maryland Historical Trust** (Trust) is a state agency dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation and education, the Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage. The Trust is an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning and serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Our website can be accessed at www.mht.maryland.gov.



Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Archeology Program, Natural and Historical Resources Division
 (NHRD), Prince George's County

Since 1988, the NHRD Archaeology Program of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has been exploring the diversity of Prince George's County's archaeological resources. Through excavations, exhibits, and public outreach and cultural resource management, the archaeology program supports the M-NCPPC's numerous museums and historic sites. Hands-on volunteer programs and student internships provide opportunities for citizens and students to become involved in the process of discovering the past by participating in excavations and artifact processing and analysis. For information call the Archaeology Program office at 301-627-1286 or email Don Creveling at Donald.Creveling@pgparks.com or Kristin Montaperto at Kristin.Montaperto@pgparks.com.

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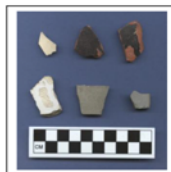
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Maryland Archeology Month Events

Numerous special events celebrating the archeology of Maryland will be held throughout the State during the month of April. These include museum displays, talks and lectures, workshops, and archeological lab and field volunteer opportunities. Please visit the Maryland Archeology Month website often at www.marylandarcheology.org to learn of other events – the list of events there will be updated throughout the month!

Here's a sampling of the many *free* events:

Lecture: *Bison in the East: A Story of Pigs, People, and Pigeons*
By: Dr. Stephen R. Potter
Sponsors: Monocacy Archaeological Society
Location: C. Burr Artz Library, 110 E Patrick St, Frederick, MD 21701
Day/Time: April 8, 2015, 6:00 P.M.
Contact: Nancy Geasey 301-378-0212, ngeasey@gmail.com

Lecture: *The Archaeology of Montpelier Mansion*
By: Dr. Paul Kreisa
Sponsor: Montpelier Mansion
Location: 9650 Muirkirk Road Laurel, MD 20708
Date/Time: April 15, 2015, 7:30 P.M.
Contact: Holly Burnham, 301-377-7817, holly.burnham@pgparks.com

Lecture: *"God Save King George": Recent Archaeological Finds at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum*
By: Ed Chaney
Sponsor: Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM)
Location: MAC Lab, JPPM, 10515 Mackall Road, St. Leonard
Date/Time: April 23, 2015, 7:00 P.M.
Contact: Michele Parlett, 410-586-8501, m.parlett@maryland.gov, www.jefpat.org

Lecture: *Overwhelmed By the Sea*
Sponsors: Western Maryland Chapter of the Archeological Society of Maryland
By: Lynne Bulhack
Location: LaVale Library, LaVale, MD
Day/Time: April 24, 2015, 7:30 P.M.
Contact: Roy Brown, 301-724-7769, wmdasm@yahoo.com

Exhibit: *Belvoir & the Archaeology of Slavery at Maryland Day*
Sponsor: Maryland State Highway Administration
Location: University of Maryland, College Park. Woods Hall
Day/Time: April 25, 2015, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Contact: Julie Schablitsky, 410-545-8879, jschablitsky@sha.state.md.us

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